THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A complaint was received regarding the selection for the post of Director in the Natonal Mineral Development Corporation Limited and it was found that the selection was made in accordance with the established selection policy and procedure. The PESB is a recommendatory body for making re commendations to Government in respect of appointments in Board-level positions in public Sector Enterprises. The selection process is an ongoing activity. During the past six months, ending January 1991, the PESB made recommendations in about 75 cases relating to selection for Board-level positions in various Public Sector Enterprises.

Atomic power plant in Kerala

230. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is present position of the proposed Atomic power Plant in Kerala; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) There is no plan, at present, to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala. However the Kerala Government have proposed five sites in Kerala for possible location of a nuclear power plant in future. These are being examined by a Technical Committee constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy. The Committee has not yet completed its assessment. The question does not arise at this stage.

Exploitation of harijan girls in the Social Welfare Department Hostel at Narayankhed Andhra Pradesh

231. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received about sexual exploitation of harijan girls in the Social Welfare Department Hostel at Nareyankhed in the Medak District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government has been asked to take stringent action against those involved in this scandal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been referred to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, for a thorough enquiry into the alleged incidents. Report of the State Government is awaited.

Warning system for cyclones and Floods

232. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the system of giving warning for Cyclones and floods for 3-4 days in advance; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to improve the system and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the nodal agency for providing cyclone warnings in India. Cyclone warnings are provided by monitoring the movement of the cyclones with the help of conventional observations, high power cyclone detection radars, INSAT Statellite and then forecasting the path and intensity of cyclones. The cyclone warning are provided in two stages. In the first stage, a "Cyclone alert" is issued, 48 hours in advance of commencement of adverse whether along

the coast. In the second stage, a "Cyclone Warning" is issued 24 hours in advance of the Cyclones anticipated landfall. The ports are warned by means of a Special Port Warning Service. Warnings for Fisheries Officials and Ports start much earlier. Informatory messages are issued to All India Radio and Doordarshan for broadcast/telecast right from the time when occurrence of cyclonic conditions is observed.

Flood warnings are provided by the Central Water Commission (CWC) of the Ministry of Water Resources through a network of 157 flood forecasting stations on various interstate rivers of the country. Warning time at the existing stations varies from Station to Station between 6 hours and 36 hours.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Meteorological Observational network, especially in the coastal areas, is being strengthened and the INSAT based Disaster Warning System (DWS) network available at present on Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Coasts, is being expanded.

Revival of Political Process in J&K

233. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a move has been initiated for the revival of political process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any talks in this regard has been held with Dr. Farooq Abdulla; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with political leaders of the state including Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Govt. have highlighted its willingness to talk to any one but the solution will have to be within the framework of the constitution and without any compromise on the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Govt. is prepared to provide assistance/security to political leaders in their efforts to revive their normal political activities.

Sinking of Sea Ward Defence Boat "INSDB-57" deployed in Palk Bay

234. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARATY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sea Ward Defence Boat "INSDB-57" of the Indian Navy Coast Guard Force, deployed for patrolling on the Palk Bay sank sometime in December, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details of the inquiry conducted into the circumstances leading to the sinking of the vessels; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A Sea-Ward Defence Boat deployed for patrolling the Palk Bay had dragged her anchor and run aground on the night of 11th/12th December, 1990 due to rough weather. The boat was later hauled out and is presently berthed in Visakhapatnam. There were no casualties/injuries during this incident. A Board of Inquiry has been instituted to assess the damage to the vessel and to establish the causes of the incident. The report of the Board of Inquiry is awaited.